

Remarks

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed on August 11, 2005. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 19-27 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In Section 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fowlow et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,189,138, in view of Goldberg et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,571,232. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of this rejection is not conceded. Reconsideration is requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of creating programmable data objects. Claim 1 recites, among other limitations:

- editing the processing items within the visual design surface module, wherein the processing items comprise properties and processing instruction source code;
- identifying any other processing items containing references to data structures and functions edited; and
- updating the identified items containing references to the data structures and functions edited to make all references consistent with each other.

One example of a system implementing a method such as that recited in claim 1 is described at page 19, lines 9-19 of the present application. For example, a user can alter the source code for any processing item within a component visual design surface module 402. When the changes are saved, the component visual design surface module 402 will incorporate these changes into all other processing items as necessary. For example, a user may wish to modify the data type of a field within a command adapter module. This modification will cause the same change to be made to the corresponding field in the typed dataset 440, as well as other changes within the processing functions and methods 430 that support the use of the database table.

It is respectfully suggested for the following reasons that neither Fowlow nor Goldberg, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such a method.

The Action identifies the section of Fowlow reprinted below as disclosing the method recited in claim 1.

In still another embodiment, the application construction environment includes a graphical user interface for displaying, selecting, and linking parts, a region for displaying and selecting the plugs of a selected part, a region for displaying and selecting the sockets of a selected part, a region for displaying the interface of the application being constructed, a region for references to the interfaces of pre-existing objects, and a region for setting attribute values of selected parts.

Fowlow, col. 4, ll. 26-34. It is respectfully suggested that this section of Fowlow does not disclose the limitations of claim 1 identified above. For at least the following reasons, it is respectfully suggested that Fowlow does not disclose or suggest the method recited by claim 1.

Fowlow discloses an editor 800 for modifying various interfaces for use with the application being composed. Fowlow, col. 4, ll. 18-34; col. 13, ll. 17-30; and col. 14, ll. 43-58. For example, an editor 800 for entering Interface Definition Language text for an interface is shown in Figure 8 of Fowlow.

However, Fowlow does not disclose or suggest that, when editor 800 is used to edit an interface, other interfaces containing references to the interface being edited are identified and updated so that all references are consistent with each other. Fowlow therefore fails to disclose or suggest identifying any other processing items containing references to data structures and functions edited, and updating the identified items containing references to the data structures and functions edited to make all references consistent with each other, as recited by claim 1.

Goldberg likewise fails to disclose or suggest such a method as recited by claim 1.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claim 2 that depends therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

Independent claims 7, 13, and 19 all include limitations similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 7, 13, and 19, as well as claims 8, 14, and 20-27 that depend respectively therefrom, should be allowable for at least reasons similar to those provided above with respect to claim 1. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

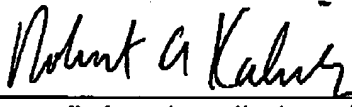
II. Conclusion

The remarks set forth above provide certain arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims. There may be other reasons that the pending claims are patentably distinct over the cited references, and the right to raise any such other reasons or arguments in the future is expressly reserved.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and remarks. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: October 11, 2005


Name: Robert A. Kalinsky
Reg. No.: 50,471
RAK